GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1388
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
INQUIRY COMMISSIONS ON COAL MINES ACCIDENTS
DUKHA BHAGAT;JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a): the number of Inquiry Commissions set up on coal mine accidents during each of the last three years and till date;

(b): the expenditure incurred on each of the Commission;

(c): the details of the commissions which did not submit their reports within the stipulated period;

(d): the number of officers against whom recommendations were made by these Commission; and

(e): the details of the officers against whom action has been taken by the Government on the basis of those reports during the said period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a): Two High Powered Committees and one Court of Enquiry have been set up during the last three years and till date. Two High Powered Committees were constituted by Ministry of Coal to go into details of the accident at Parascole(West)Colliery of Eastern Coalfields Limited(ECL) and Kawadi opencast mine of Western Coalfields Limited(WCL) respectively.

Ministry of Labour in exercise ofpowers under sub- section (1) of section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952 has appointed Justice Gurusharan Sharma, Judge, High Court of Ranchito hold an enquiry into the causes and circumstances attending the Bagdigi disaster and to fix responsibility for the causes leading to the accident.

(b): The expenditure incurred on High Powered Committee for Parascole(West) Colliery is Rs. 25,000 and that on High Powered Committee for Kawadi opencast mine is Rs. 3,29,602. Bagdigi Court of Enquiry is still in progress.

(c): Both the High Powered Committees reports (on Prasacole(W) and Kawadi) were submitted to the Ministry of Coal. Bagdigi Court of Enquiry is still in progress.

(d) & (e): For Parascole(W) accident, recommendation was for taking action against four officials of Eastern Coalfields Limited(ECL). The same is in progress. For Kawadi opencast mine accident, this was not included in the terms of reference of the committee. However, in respect of Kawadi opencast mine accident, DGMS issued charge sheet and launched prosecution against nine officials of Western Coalfields Limited(WCL) in the Court of1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Bhadrawati.Bagdigi Court of Enquiry is still in progress.